

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, SP

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENT
OF NEW TREATY (SUPP. NO. 4)

REF: STATE 171222-C

1. EMBASSY OFFICIALS (PAO, CAO, ACAO/EXCHANGES) AND
FULBRIGHT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BELA HELD INFORMAL MEETING
WITH GOS-MFA REPRESENTATIVES (DIR GEN OF INTERNATIONAL
CULTURAL RELATIONS, ALFONSO DE LA SERNA AND FORMER DEPUTY
DIRECTOR GENERAL PEDRO ORTIZ ARMENGOL) JULY 1 TO INFORM
SPANISH OF DEPARTMENT'S THINKING ON NEW EDUCATIONAL AND
CULTURAL PROJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER NEW TREATY.

2. MFA OFFICIALS EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST IN AREAS OF
ACTIVITY A, C, AND D. STRESSED THAT GOS NOT YET PREPARED
OFFER DEFINITIVE SUGGESTIONS OF ITS OWN, BUT WELCOMED
OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS INFORMALLY WITH EMBASSY.
ALSO STATED THAT DECISION REACHED MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
WISHES MIN. OF EDUCATION ALTHOUGH WE RECEIVED IMPRESSION MFA
HAS INTENTION OF MAINTAINING CONTROL OVER PROGRAM.

3. SPANISH SIDE OF NEW JOINT COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE
REPRESENTATION FROM: MFA (2); MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1);
NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL (1); AND MINISTRY OF INFORMATION
AND TOURISM (1). LATTER MEMBER INCLUDED DUE TO ITS CONTROL
OVER MUSICAL AND THEATRICAL PRESENTATIONS. PAO INFORMED
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MFA OF DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSAL FOR U.S. JOINT COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATION. ALSO STRESSED THAT DEPARTMENT ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH FULBRIGHT COMMISSION AND SECRETARIAT CONTINUING ITS ROLE IN ADMINISTERING NMA EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAM UNDER NEW TREATY.

4. MFA INFORMAL REACTIONS TO DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTIONS FOLLOW:

A. AGREED THAT SUCH EXCHANGE SHOULD BE BROADENED AND NUMBERS EXPANDED, THIS VIEW BEING HELD BY NEARLY ALL OFFICIALS INVOLVED INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES HERE. THOUGH MFA APPEARED RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTIONS THAT GREATER FOCUS BE ON SOCIAL SCIENCES, INCLUDING MANAGERIAL SCIENCES AND URBAN PLANNING, THEY WERE UNWILLING TO EXPRESS PREFERENCES UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH NEW MIN. EDUCATION. IN GENERAL, THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROJECTS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER S & T ACCORDS. (HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS TO ANY TOTAL SEPARATION OF SCIENTIFIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, WHICH IS EDUCATIONAL, FROM E & C FIELD. FULBRIGHT COMMISSION HAS DONE EXCELLENT JOB ADMINISTERING THESE SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AND EMBASSY FORESEES NO ALTERNATE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY CAPABLE OF DOING COMPARABLE JOB.) IN RESPECT POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT HISPANIC-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MFA REACTED COOLY NOTING THAT SUCH AN ENTITY WOULD REQUIRE CAREFUL THOUGHT, PLANNING AND INVESTMENT.

B. DISSEMINATION OF WORKS OF AUTHORS AND ARTISTS
IT WAS NOTED THAT MUCH WAS PRESENTLY BEING ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS FIELD AND THAT THERE IS NO EASY ROUTE TO AN EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES.

C. FURNISHING OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
EXPRESSED GENERAL CONCURRENCE IN THIS FIELD AND AGREED THAT IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD INCLUDE TRAINING OF SPANISH LIBRARY PERSONNEL IN U.S., AS WELL AS ACQUISITION OF BOOK AND PERIODICAL COLLECTIONS AND EQUIPMENT. DE LA SERNA SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN MICROFILMING HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS IN ARCHIVES OF THE INDIES IN SEVILLE, A PROJECT HE REPORTED HAS BEEN FAVORABLE DISCUSSED BY THE SECRETARY AND EX-FOREIGN MIN. AREILZA.

D. VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SPECIAL TRAINING FOR SECONDARY
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TEACHERS OF SPANISH AND ENGLISH. POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH GREAT ADMIRERS OF SOUTH AMERICAN SPANISH, "THERE WERE A TROUBLESOME NUMBER OF VARIEIES AND THAT SCHOOLING IN THE MOTHER LANGUAGE AS FOUND IN SPAIN WOULD BE A TRULY BENEFICIAL WORK". MFA HAD NEUTRAL REACTION TO SUGGESTION FOR INSTITUTIONAL LINKS BETWEEN PROVINCIAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SPAIN AND U. S. MUCH GREATER DEFINITION OF PROJECT PROPOSAL NEEDED BEFORE DECISIVE RESPONSE

FORTHCOMING. (EMBASSY ALSO IN FAVOR OF INSTITUTIONAL LINKS, BUT WOULD NOT LIMIT SUCH LINKS TO REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES. MORE IMPORTANT IS IMPLICATION THAT E & C PROJECTS INVOLVE GREATER PARTICIPATION BY ACADEMIC UNITS IN KEY PROVINCIAL CAPITALS, I.E., BARCELONA, SEVILLA, BILBAO AND VALENCIA.) THE DIR. GEN. REITERATED THAT HE APPRECIATED VERY MUCH THE BRIEFING ON THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, AND THAT HE WOULD VERY SOON HAVE DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS OWN SUPERIORS IN ORDER TO RECIPROCATE WITH A USEFUL STATEMENT OF INTERESTS ON THE PART OF MFA FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WITH MFA OFFICIALS WAS WORTH WHILE SESSION PRIOR FORMAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AFTER VACATION PERIOD HERE. WILL ENABLE SPANISH TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT U.S. THINKING IN WORKING OUT THEIR PROPOSALS. HOWEVER, MUST POINT OUT THAT MFA UNWILLING COMMIT ITS IDEAS AND PREFERENCES UNTIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH NEW MIN. EDUCATION.
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